

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

W.R. Grace & Co.

7379 Route 32

Columbia, MD 21044

Congressional District 7

EPA ID #: MDD074933961

Last Updated 6/6/05

Current Progress at the Site

In July 1992, EPA issued a RCRA permit to WR Grace.

Grace has been conducting extensive investigations of soil, groundwater and surface water throughout the late 1980s and 1990s. They have implemented remedial measures including groundwater recovery and treatment, soil vapor extraction, and waste removal and disposal. The groundwater recovery and treatment system began operation in 1989 and continues operation with five recovery wells leading to the granular activated carbon treatment system.

WR Grace submitted the CMS report in February, 1999. EPA is currently reviewing the CMS report and the Human Health Risk Assessment.

After EPA has completed its review of the CMS report and the Human Health Risk Assessment. EPA will be discussing with WR Grace additional work which may be needed.

Site Description

WR Grace is located in Columbia, Maryland, northeast of Route 32 and north/northwest of Cedar Lane. The site consist of approximately 125 acres. The Middle Patuxent River is located just east of the Grace property. The property has been owned and operated by the Grace company since the 1950s. Until 1997, the facility served as the corporate research and development center, in support of the specialty chemical, building materials, and biomedical components of Grace's business lines. The facility was then referred to as the Washington Research Center, or WRC. In 1997, the specialty chemical unit of Grace, Grace-Davison took over the management of the property, and subsequently relocated their headquarters to the Columbia facility. Today the majority of the buildings are used as offices.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted under the direction of EPA Region 3 with assistance from the State.

Contaminants

The contaminants of concern include trichloroethene (TCE), 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane,

tetrachlorethene, 1,1-dichloroethene, 1,1-dichloroethane, 1,2-dichloroethane, and trichlorofluoromethane.

Community Interaction

Grace has worked closely with its two primary adjacent property owners Howard Research and Development Corporation (HRD) which is a subsidiary of The Rouse Company and Howard County. HRD and Howard County have plans to establish a Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (MPEA) to cover hundreds of acres of Howard County. Portions of the planned MPEA involve property owned by HRD that is to be deeded over to Howard County. Two of these areas are adjacent to the Grace property.

Institutional Controls

No institutional controls are currently in place.

Government Contact

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm